

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ABC/OAKLAND PD SUSPENDS RESTAURANT'S LIQUOR LICENSE**

**Oakland** – The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) today suspended the liquor license of Koko House BBQ, 6101 Telegraph Avenue in Oakland. The action is the result of a surprise undercover operation on February 22, 2002, in which ABC investigators and the Oakland Police Department's ABAT team found 25 minors in the restaurant either consuming or in possession of alcoholic beverages. In addition, two servers were arrested for selling alcohol to minors.

ABC today posted a 60 day license suspension, with the formal penalty being revocation of the license, with the revocation stayed for a period of two years. If during that time the business is caught selling or serving alcohol to minors again, the license could then be permanently revoked.

The normal suspension for a first time sales to minor offense is 15 days. However, ABC Oakland District Office Administrator Everest Robillard said, "The fact there were more than two dozen minors being served at this location indicates a flagrant violation of the law, warranting a more severe punishment."

Said Robillard, "The incidence of drunk driving deaths involving teenagers in the bay area seems to be increasing. ABC intends to take strong action against any business that creates the potential for further tragic incidents involving teens and alcohol."

The minors cited for possessing and consuming alcohol at the Koko House ranged in age from 17 to 20 years of age. In 1998, a 17-year-old female was served alcoholic beverages, became intoxicated, and was brutally raped in the bathroom of the Koko House by a male patron.

Since the February incident, a shooting took place on June 6, 2002, at the Koko House involving young people with two wounded. Details of the incident are still being investigated.

ABC is a Department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency under the direction of Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.